



AG UPDATE

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January to April 2005 commercial red meat production was 14.6 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was down slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 8 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States ^{1/}

Area and Specie	Apr. 2004	Mar. 2005	Apr. 2005	January-April	
				2004	2005
Million Pounds					
Colorado	151.8	141.9	130.2	618.6	537.2
United States . .	3,713.0	3,879.0	3,622.0	14,778.0	14,573.0
Beef	1,956.0	2,043.0	1,890.0	7,794.0	7,617.0
Veal	13.9	13.3	13.0	58.5	51.7
Pork	1,725.0	1,803.0	1,704.0	6,856.0	6,840.0
Lamb & Mutton	17.5	19.5	15.5	70.0	64.6

^{1/} Totals may not add due to rounding.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

APRIL 2005

Red meat production in **Colorado** during April 2005 totaled 130.2 million pounds, 14 percent below the 151.8 million pounds produced during April 2004 and 8 percent below March 2005. The accumulated production for the first four months of this year now totals 537.2 million pounds, down 13 percent from the 618.6 million pounds produced during the comparable period last year. Cattle kill in Colorado during April declined 18 percent from the previous year to 160,700 head. The average live weight of 1,209 pounds was 41 pounds above the average for April 2004. Hog slaughter declined 11 percent from a year ago to 800 head and the average live weight increased 35 pounds to 283. Sheep and lamb kill during April totaled 88,400 head, up 8 percent from the previous year. The average live weight of 162 pounds increased 2 pounds from April 2004.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.62 billion pounds in April, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in April 2004. **Beef production**, at 1.89 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, down 5 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, at 1,220 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 13.0 million pounds, 7 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,600 head, down 13 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was 23 pounds above last year, at 353 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.44 million head, 2 percent below April 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.5 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 220,800 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION

APRIL 2005

Colorado laying flocks produced 89 million eggs during April 2005, down 2 percent from the 91 million produced during the same month last year and down 3 percent from the 92 million produced in March of this year. During April, the average number of layers was 3.75 million compared with 3.83 million in April 2004 and 3.77 during March of this year. The average number of eggs produced per 100 layers was 2,371 this April compared with 2,376 last April and 2,440 for March of this year.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.39 billion during April 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.29 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 63 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2005 averaged 344 million, up slightly from a year earlier. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,148 eggs, unchanged from April 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2005, totaled 343 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 343 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2005, averaged 71.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the **30 major egg producing States** produced 6.92 billion eggs during April 2005, up 1 percent from a year

ago. The average number of layers during April, at 322 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier. These states account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE FIELD CROPS

The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report refer to on-farm use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides on targeted crops for the 2004 crop year. Targeted crops included durum wheat, peanuts, soybeans, other spring wheat, and winter wheat. Farm and ranch operators were enumerated late in the growing season after the farm operator had indicated that planned applications were completed. The chemical use data were not summarized for geographical areas other than those States published in this report. The data were compiled from two surveys, the Agricultural Resources Management Survey (ARMS) and Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). Data collection occurred primarily during the months of September to December of 2004. Relevant portions of the survey instruments used in data collection are included in the back of this publication.

Highlights:

Durum Wheat: Two program states, Montana and North Dakota, were surveyed for durum wheat in the 2004 ARMS phase II survey. Nitrogen was the most commonly used fertilizer for producers of durum wheat. Producers in Montana applied nitrogen to 96 percent of their fields; North Dakota applied it to 95 percent of their fields. At the Program State level, 36 pounds of nitrogen were applied per acre per application; 147.8 million total pounds of nitrogen were applied to the fields in 2004. Phosphate was applied to 84 percent of the acres treated in Montana, while only 70 percent of North Dakota durum wheat acres were treated. The rate per application in the Program States was 24 pounds of phosphate per acre, with a total of 46.9 million pounds applied. Potash had the lowest coverage and smallest rate per application of all fertilizers reported. Montana distributed potash on 10 percent of their planted acres, while North Dakota applied it on 6 percent. The rate per application of potash for the Program States was 9 pounds per acre, with 1.7 million total pounds applied to the fields.

None of the growers reported any insecticides in this survey. Herbicides were applied to 99 percent of the durum wheat planted. Fenoxaprop was the most widely applied herbicide with 48 percent of the planted acreage being treated. It was applied at a rate of 0.05 pounds per acre per application; 67,000 total pounds were applied in the Program States. The next three most widely applied herbicides to durum wheat were glyphosate, MCPA, and 2,4-D. They were applied to 46, 45, and 36 percent, respectively, of the planted acreage. There were not enough reports available to publish any fungicide data.

Soybeans: Eleven states were included in the 2004 survey: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota. Phosphate was the most commonly used fertilizer on soybeans; it was applied to 26 percent of acreage in the Program States. A total of 1,095.9 million pounds of phosphate were applied to the Program State acreage. North Dakota had the highest phosphate

coverage of any other state, applying phosphate to 63 percent of their planted soybean acreage. South Dakota had the second highest coverage, applying phosphate to 45 percent of their fields. All other states applied phosphate to less than 40 percent of their planted acreage. Iowa only applied it to 11 percent of their planted acreage. Potash was the next most frequently applied fertilizer, with 23 percent of acres planted being treated; a total of 1,733.9 million pounds were applied. Again great variability existed, Ohio applied potash to 43 percent of its planted acreage, while Kansas only treated 5 percent. Nitrogen had the smallest acreage coverage at only 21 percent of Program State acres, with 358.1 million pounds distributed.

Herbicides were applied to 97 percent of the Program State acreage though one active ingredient clearly dominated. Glyphosate was used on 87 percent of all the acres treated, 0.73 pounds of glyphosate were applied per acre per application, and 57.7 million total pounds of glyphosate were applied. The next four most widely used active ingredients were also herbicides, but their percent of acres treated were much smaller. Chlorim-ethyl, sulfentrazone, trifluralin, and pendimethalin rounded out the top five active ingredients at 7, 6, 5, and 4 percent of acres treated, respectively.

Other Spring Wheat: States surveyed for other spring wheat included Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington. Nitrogen fertilizer was applied to 93 percent of the 2004 spring wheat planted acreage in the Program States. Spring wheat growers in the Program States applied nitrogen on average 2.0 times per acre, putting down 48 pounds of nitrogen per acre per treatment. Fertilizers with phosphate were applied to 79 percent of the planted acreage and 25 percent of the planted acreage received potash applications.

Spring wheat producers in the states surveyed treated 96 percent of their planted acreage with herbicides. MCPA was the most widely applied herbicide with 46 percent of the planted acreage being treated in the Program States. It was applied at a rate of 0.29 pounds per acre per application; a total of 1.845 million pounds of the active ingredient were applied in the Program States. The next four active ingredients that round off the top five used active ingredients were also herbicides. They were fenoxaprop, glyphosate, 2,4-D, and bromoxynil octanoate. Their percents of acres treated were 31, 23, 20, and 19 percent, respectively. Insecticides were applied to only 2 percent of the other spring wheat acres planted in the Program States. No active ingredient was applied on more than 1 percent of the acres planted. Fungicides were applied to 20 percent of acres planted in the Program States.

Winter Wheat: Producers in the Program States (Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington) applied nitrogen fertilizer to 84 percent of the winter wheat planted acreage. The average number of nitrogen applications per acre was 2.0 with an average application rate of 44 pounds per acre; 2,733 million total pounds were applied. Phosphate was applied on 55 percent of the winter wheat planted

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AGRICULTURAL PRICES

MAY 15, 2005

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from April. The Crop and Livestock Indices are unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for hogs, strawberries, hay, and potatoes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, broccoli, asparagus, and dairy. The overall index is also affected by the 3-year average seasonal change in the mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cantaloup, sweet corn, grapes, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, dairy, calves, and asparagus.

The May **All Crops Index** was 121, unchanged from April but 2.4 percent below May 2004. The May all wheat price, at \$3.28 per bushel, is down 7 cents from April and 54 cents down from May 2004. The corn price, at \$1.92 per bushel, is down 8 cents from last month and 95 cents below May 2004. The all hay price, at \$107.00 per ton, is \$10.10 above April and up \$6.00 from last May. The soybean price, at \$6.09 per bushel, increased 6 cents from April but \$3.47 below May 2004. The all potato price, at \$6.71 per cwt, is up 54 cents from April and 24 cents above last May. The dry edible bean price, at \$25.50 per cwt, is down \$3.30 from last month but \$5.60 above May 2004.

The May **Livestock and Products Index**, at 122, is unchanged from last month but down 8.3 percent from May 2004. The May hog price, at \$55.40 per cwt, is up \$4.20 from April but \$1.20 lower than a year ago. The May beef cattle price of \$92.90 is down \$1.10 from last month but \$4.40 higher than May 2004. The May all milk price of \$14.90 is down 30 cents from last month and down \$4.40 from May 2004. The fluid grade milk price is down 30 cents from the previous month and the manufactured grade milk price is 50 cents below April.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004		2005	
	April	May	April	May
	Percent			
Prices Received	125	129	122	122
Prices Paid	133	135	139	139
Ratio 1/	94	96	88	88

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid.

All mid-May 2005 **Colorado** commodity prices except potatoes and other hay averaged lower than the previous year. Prices were also higher than May 2004 for all livestock items. Wheat, at \$2.92 per bushel, was 27 cents below the previous month and 77 cents below May a year ago. Corn prices decreased 19 cents from April to \$1.92 per bushel and averaged \$1.06 cents below May 2004. Potatoes declined 10 cents per cwt from the previous month to \$4.50 per cwt but was 50 cents per cwt higher than the \$4.00 per cwt received in May 2004. Alfalfa hay averaged \$78.00 per ton in mid-May of this year, down \$6.00 per ton from the previous month and \$4.00 per ton below May 2004. Other hay was down \$15.00 from the previous month, at \$75.00 per

ton, but averaged \$1.00 per ton above May 2004. Steers and heifers, at \$112.00 per cwt, unchanged from April but averaged \$8.00 per cwt above May 2004. Calves increased \$1.00 per cwt from the previous month to \$140.00 and were \$19.00 per cwt above the May 2004 average of \$121.00 per cwt. April sheep prices, at \$36.80 per cwt averaged \$2.90 per cwt above the previous year. Lamb prices for April of this year averaged \$120.00 per cwt, up \$14.00 from April 2004.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		May 2004	April 2005	May 2005
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	3.69	3.19	2.92
Corn	Bu.	2.98	2.11	1.92
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.62	2/	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	4.00	4.60	4.50
Dry edible beans	Cwt	18.80	27.60	2/
Alfalfa hay (baled) . .	Ton	82.00	84.00	78.00
Other hay (baled) . . .	Ton	74.00	90.00	75.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	104.00	111.00	111.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	104.00	112.00	112.00
Cows	Cwt	54.10	57.80	60.60
Calves	Cwt	121.00	139.00	140.00
Sheep	Cwt	33.90	36.80	3/
Lambs	Cwt	106.00	120.00	3/
Milk sold to plants . .	Cwt	4/	14.90	14.90
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	3.82	3.35	3.28
Corn	Bu.	2.87	2.00	1.92
Soybeans	Bu.	9.56	6.03	6.09
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.78	2.32	2.53
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.39	1.54	1.91
Sorghum	Cwt	4.82	2.96	2.86
Potatoes	Cwt	6.47	6.17	6.71
Dry edible beans	Cwt	19.90	28.80	25.50
Alfalfa hay (baled) . .	Ton	109.00	103.00	116.00
Other hay (baled) . . .	Ton	78.30	75.40	76.10
Onions	Cwt	18.10	16.30	19.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	88.50	94.00	92.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	92.60	98.30	96.90
Cows	Cwt	52.50	57.10	58.70
Calves	Cwt	121.00	140.00	141.00
Sheep	Cwt	36.00	44.40	3/
Lambs	Cwt	103.00	114.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	56.60	51.20	55.40
Milk sold to plants . .	Cwt	19.30	15.20	14.90
Broilers	Lb.	0.500	0.440	0.440

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.

2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual farms.

3/ Discontinued.

4/ Price not estimated

(Continued from page 3)

acreage in the Program States; 934 million total pounds were applied. Potash was applied to 16 percent of the planted winter wheat acreage in the Program States. Producers in Ohio applied potash to 90 percent of their winter wheat planted acreage; Washington and Nebraska producers applied potash to only 3 percent of the planted acreage.

In the Program States, 45 percent of the winter wheat planted acreage was treated with herbicides. The most widely used herbicides were metsulfuron-methyl, applied to 15 percent of the winter wheat acreage, followed by glyphosate and 2,4-D, both applied to 13 percent of the planted acreage in the States surveyed.

Insecticide applications were made to 7 percent of the winter wheat planted acres in 2004. Chlorpyrifos, the most widely used insecticide, was only applied to 3 percent of Program State acres planted.

Fungicides were applied to 2 percent of Program State acreage. No active ingredients were applied to more than 1 percent of the total Program State acreage.

Pest Management Practices - Highlights

The pest management questions were enhanced in 2003 to provide more relevant data on agricultural practices. The 2004 surveys continued using these modified questions. These questions more accurately capture current pest management practices for the specific crops. Some questions remained unchanged, so if the reader would like to do a year to year comparison, their results would still be valid. Durum wheat, soybeans, and other spring wheat were last asked about their pest management practices in 2002. Winter wheat was also surveyed in 2002, but the data available come from acres harvested, rather than acres planted. Peanuts were last surveyed in 1999.

Questions pertaining to scouting have changed between 2002 and 2004. Scouting is now classified as either scouting by general observation or scouting deliberately. Tillage practices is now a separate question from information regarding field edge, roadway and fence line maintenance.

Note: There is not sufficient space in this AG UPDATE to cover all details of the Agricultural Chemicals Usage report. The full report is available on the internet at the address specified in the UPCOMING REPORTS area.

COLD STORAGE

APRIL 30, 2005

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for pork, vegetables, chicken, butter and cheese. Butter stocks were up 23 percent from last month and up 5 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 3 percent from last month, but up 3 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 4 percent from last month and up 26 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 10 percent from last month and up 85 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on April 30, 2005 were 5 percent above the previous month, but down 4 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 8 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 8 percent from last month, but down 18 percent from April 30, 2004.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	April 30, 2004	Mar. 31, 2005	April 30, 2005
1,000 Pounds			
Butter	155,718	132,460	163,426
Cheese, total natural . . .	767,568	741,739	772,657
Eggs, frozen	20,906	18,548	18,852
Poultry, total frozen . . .	1,195,614	1,087,852	1,145,409
Chicken	645,821	672,686	694,710
Turkey	548,773	416,846	450,427
Fruits, frozen	704,805	753,493	703,399
Fruit Juices, frozen	2,316,073	1,896,430	1,977,538
Vegetables, total frozen	1,467,921	1,767,633	1,609,517
Potatoes, total frozen . .	1,158,702	1,091,899	1,169,613
Meats, total red	883,600	931,563	906,548
Beef, total frozen	421,180	372,404	326,697
Pork, total frozen	448,550	543,677	563,464

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Food stocks are excluded for places where entire inventories are turned over more than once a month.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

- June 10 - Crop Production
- June 15 - Potato Stocks
- June 16 - Milk Production
- June 17 - Cattle On Feed
- June 22 - Cold Storage
- June 21 - Chickens and Eggs
- June 24 - Livestock Slaughter
- June 24 - Hogs and Pigs
- June 29 - Agricultural Prices

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